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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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9 Joanne Lewis,
10 Plaintiff,
11 v.
12 United States, et al.,
13 Defendants.
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Case No.: 15-cv-02319-CAB-JLB

**NOTICE AND ORDER: (1) FOR
EARLY NEUTRAL EVALUATION
CONFERENCE, (2) SETTING RULE
26 COMPLIANCE AND CASE
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

15 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that an **Early Neutral Evaluation** (“ENE”) of your
16 case will be held on **January 11, 2016**, at **9:00 AM** in the Chambers of Magistrate Judge
17 Jill L. Burkhardt, Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse, 221 West Broadway, Suite 5140,
18 San Diego, California 92101. In the event the case does not settle at the ENE, a **Case**
19 **Management Conference** pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b) is **SET for January 11, 2016**
20 and will be held at the conclusion of the ENE Conference.

21 The following are **mandatory** directions for the parties preparing for the Early
22 Neutral Evaluation Conference. **Absent express permission obtained from this Court,**
23 **and notwithstanding the pendency of any motion, counsel shall timely comply with**
24 **the dates and deadlines ordered herein.**

25 1. **Purpose of Conference:** The purpose of the ENE Conference is to permit an
26 informal discussion between the attorneys, parties, and the settlement judge of every aspect
27 of the lawsuit in an effort to achieve an early resolution of the case. All conference
28 discussions will be informal, off the record, privileged and confidential. Counsel for any

1 non-English speaking parties is responsible for arranging for the appearance of an
2 interpreter at the conference.

3 2. **Personal Appearance of Parties Required:** All parties, adjusters for insured
4 defendants, and other representatives of a party having full settlement authority as
5 explained below, and the principal attorneys responsible for the litigation, must be present
6 **in person** and legally and factually prepared to discuss settlement of the case. Counsel
7 appearing without their clients (whether or not counsel has been given settlement authority)
8 will be cause for immediate imposition of sanctions and may also result in the immediate
9 termination of the conference. If each of the principal attorneys responsible for the
10 litigation is not listed on the docket as an “*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*,” then they each
11 shall enter their appearance on the docket as soon as practicable, but in no event later than
12 **ten calendar days** prior to the ENE conference.

13 Unless there is extraordinary circumstances, persons required to attend the
14 conference pursuant to this Order shall not be excused from personal attendance. **Requests**
15 **for excuse from attendance for extraordinary circumstances shall be filed in writing**
16 **at least ten calendar days prior to the conference.** Failure to appear at the ENE
17 conference will be grounds for sanctions.

18 3. **Full Settlement Authority Required:** In addition to counsel who will try the
19 case, a party or party representative with full settlement authority¹ must be present for the
20 conference. In the case of a corporate entity, an authorized representative of the
21 corporation who is not retained outside counsel must be present and must have
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24 ¹ “Full settlement authority” means that the individuals at the settlement conference must be
25 authorized to explore settlement options fully and to agree at that time to any settlement terms
26 acceptable to the parties. *Heileman Brewing Co. v. Joseph Oat Corp.*, 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir.
27 1989). The person needs to have “unfettered discretion and authority” to change the settlement position
28 of a party. *Pitman v. Brinker Int’l, Inc.*, 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003). The purpose of
requiring a person with unlimited settlement authority to attend the conference contemplates that the
person’s view of the case may be altered during the face to face conference. *Id.* at 486. A limited or a
sum certain of authority is not adequate. *See Nick v. Morgan’s Foods, Inc.*, 270 F.3d 590, 595-97 (8th
Cir. 2001).

1 discretionary authority to commit the company to pay an amount up to the amount of the
2 Plaintiff's prayer (excluding punitive damages prayers). The purpose of this requirement
3 is to have representatives present who can settle the case during the course of the
4 conference without consulting a superior. **Counsel for a government entity** may be
5 excused from this requirement so long as the government attorney who attends the ENE
6 conference (1) has primary responsibility for handling the case, and (2) may negotiate
7 settlement offers which the attorney is willing to recommend to the government official
8 having ultimate settlement authority.

9 4. **ENE Statements Required:** On or before **December 30, 2015**, the parties
10 shall lodge statements of **five pages** or less directly to the chambers of Magistrate Judge
11 Burkhardt outlining the nature of the case, the claims, the defenses, and the parties'
12 positions regarding settlement of the case. The settlement position must include a specific
13 and current demand or offer addressing all relief or remedies sought. If a specific demand
14 or offer cannot be made at the time the brief is submitted, then the reasons therefor must
15 be stated along with a statement as to when the party will be in a position to state a demand
16 or offer. A general statement that a party will "negotiate in good faith" is not a specific
17 demand or offer. The statement shall also list all attorney and non-attorney attendees for
18 the Conference, including person(s) and their title(s) or position(s) with the party who will
19 attend and have settlement authority at the Conference.

20 ENE statements shall be lodged via email at efile_burkhardt@casd.uscourts.gov. If
21 exhibits are attached and the total submission amounts to more than 20 pages, a hard copy
22 must also be delivered directly to chambers. **Whether these statements are submitted**
23 **confidentially or whether they are served on opposing counsel is within the parties'**
24 **discretion.** Statements of more than five pages will not be considered.

25 5. **Submission of Magistrate Judge Consent Form:** No later than **December**
26 **11, 2015**, each party shall provide Plaintiff's counsel with an executed copy of the attached
27 consent form, titled Notice, Consent, and Reference of a Civil Action to a Magistrate Judge.
28 Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 73.1, if (and only if) **all** parties have consented to the reference

1 to a magistrate judge, then Plaintiff shall file the consent form(s) **in paper format** at the
2 Clerk's Office by **December 15, 2015**. If the paper format filing reflects consent by **all**
3 parties, then the form(s) will be forwarded to the assigned district judge for approval. The
4 consent form(s) **should not be filed with the court electronically** through its Case
5 Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) system. No consent form will be made
6 available, nor will its contents be made known to any judicial officer, unless all parties
7 have consented to the reference to a magistrate judge. The parties are free to withhold
8 consent without adverse substantive consequences. Questions related to the consent
9 form(s) should be directed only to the clerk's office at 619-557-5600. Please do not call
10 chambers' staff with questions related to the consent form(s).

11 6. **New Parties Must Be Notified by Plaintiff's Counsel**: Plaintiff's counsel
12 shall give notice of the ENE and this Order to parties responding to the complaint after the
13 date of this notice.

14 7. **Case Management Under the Amended Federal Rules**: The parties are
15 ordered to comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 and proceed with the initial disclosure process
16 as follows:

- 17 a. The Rule 26(f) conference shall be completed on or before **December 11,**
18 **2015**;
- 19 b. The date of initial disclosure pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1)(A-D) shall occur on or
20 before **December 30, 2015**;
- 21 c. A **Joint Discovery Plan** shall be filed on the CM/ECF system as well as
22 lodged with Magistrate Judge Burkhardt by emailing the Plan to
23 efile_burkhardt@casd.uscourts.gov, on or before **December 30, 2015**. The
24 Plan must be one document and must explicitly cover the parties' views and
25 proposals for each item identified in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)(3). The parties
26 should consult both Judge Burkhardt's and the assigned District Judge's Civil
27 Chambers Rules in drafting their Plan. A courtesy paper copy of the Plan
28 shall be delivered to Judge Burkhardt's Chambers if the plan with its

1 attachments exceeds 20 pages. In addition to complying with Chambers
2 Rules, the Plan should identify whether and what good cause (specific to this
3 case) exists to modify the Court's tentative schedule for this case. The Court's
4 **tentative** schedule is as follows:

- 5 i. Filing of motions to amend pleadings and/or add parties: **February 1,**
6 **2016;**
- 7 ii. Completion of fact and expert witness discovery: **May 13, 2016;**
- 8 iii. The designation and service of expert witness reports: **March 25, 2016;**
- 9 iv. The supplemental designation and service of rebuttal expert witness
10 reports: **April 22, 2016;**
- 11 v. The date by which dispositive motions (inclusive of any motions
12 addressing any Daubert issues), shall be filed: **May 27, 2016.** Motions
13 in limine are to be filed as directed in the Local Rules, or as otherwise
14 set by the District Judge;
- 15 vi. The date for the Mandatory Settlement Conference: **June 30, 2016;** and
- 16 vii. The date for a Pretrial Conference before the District Judge assigned to
17 the case: **September 9, 2016.**

18 8. **Requests to Continue an ENE Conference:** Local Rule 16.1.c requires that
19 an ENE take place within 45 days of the filing of the first answer. Requests to continue
20 ENEs are rarely granted. However, the Court will consider formal, written *ex parte* or joint
21 motions to continue an ENE conference when extraordinary circumstances exist that make
22 a continuance appropriate. In and of itself, having to travel a long distance to appear in
23 person is not "extraordinary." Absent extraordinary circumstances, requests for
24 continuances **will not be considered unless filed** no less than **ten calendar days** prior to
25 the scheduled conference.

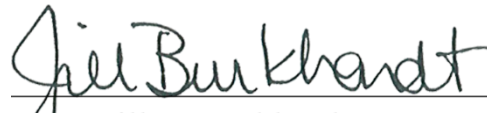
26 9. **Settlement Prior to ENE Conference:** The Court encourages the parties to
27 work on settling the matter in advance of the ENE Conference. In the event that the parties
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1 resolve the matter prior to the day of the ENE Conference, the following procedures must
2 be followed before the Court will vacate the ENE and excuse the parties from appearing:

- 3 a. The parties may file a Joint Motion to Dismiss and separately lodge by email
4 a proposed order to the assigned District Judge.² If a Joint Motion to Dismiss
5 is filed, the Court will vacate the ENE. The parties are encouraged to contact
6 Judge Burkhardt's Chambers by telephone to notify the Court of their pending
7 Joint Motion;
- 8 b. If the parties settle more than 24 hours before the conference but are not able
9 to file a Joint Motion to Dismiss, they must file a Notice of Settlement
10 containing the electronic signatures of counsel for all settling parties and
11 identifying a date by which the Joint Motion to Dismiss will be filed. The
12 parties are encouraged to contact Judge Burkhardt's Chambers by telephone
13 to notify the Court of their filed Notice of Settlement;
- 14 c. If the parties settle less than 24 hours before the conference, counsel for the
15 settling parties must JOINTLY call chambers and inform the Court of the
16 settlement and receive Court permission to not appear at the ENE.

17 After having reviewed Judge Burkhardt's Civil Chambers Rules, appropriate
18 questions regarding this case or the mandatory directions set forth herein may be addressed
19 to the Magistrate Judge's law clerks at (619) 557-6624. For additional information, please
20 see Judge Burkhardt's Civil Chambers Rules.

21 Dated: November 13, 2015


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23 Hon. Jill L. Burkhardt
24 United States Magistrate Judge
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27 ² See Electronic Case Filing Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, United States District
28 Court for the Southern District of California § 2(h), for the chambers' official email address and
procedures on emailing proposed orders.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Joanne Lewis,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

United States, et al.,

Defendant(s)

Case No.: 15-cv-02319-CAB-JLB

**NOTICE, CONSENT, AND
REFERENCE OF A CIVIL ACTION TO
A MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Notice of a magistrate judge's availability. A United States magistrate judge of this court is available to conduct all proceedings in this civil action (including a jury or nonjury trial) and to order the entry of a final judgment. The judgment may then be appealed directly to the United States court of appeals like any other judgment of this court. A magistrate judge may exercise this authority only if all parties voluntarily consent.

You may consent to have your case referred to a magistrate judge, or you may withhold your consent without adverse substantive consequences. The name of any party withholding consent will not be revealed to any judge who may otherwise be involved with your case.

Consent to a magistrate judge's authority. The following parties ☐ Consent / ☐ Do Not Consent to have a United States magistrate judge conduct all proceedings in this case including trial, the entry of final judgment, and all post-trial proceedings.

Printed Names

Signatures of parties and attorneys

Dates

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

REFERENCE ORDER

IT IS ORDERED: This case is referred to United States Magistrate Judge Jill L. Burkhardt, to conduct all proceedings and order entry of a final judgment in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), Fed. R. Civ. P. 73, and CivLR 73.1.

Date

United States District Judge